

already led many voters to acquire an improper understanding of the purport and scope of the proposed act.

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**Every California Physician Should Be Interested.**—It is of the very first importance, then, that every physician in California should take an active interest in this movement and make a personal effort to do his part in bringing about the defeat of this absurdly misnamed "Humane Dog Pound" Initiative.

Animal experimentation, humanely carried on in the laboratories of the accredited medical schools of California and designed to add additional knowledge, whereby disease in both human beings and the lower animals may be prevented (or, if it is present, be overcome), must not be stifled and done away with because of the erroneous thinking and emotional outbursts of either well-meaning and misled citizens, or of highly prejudiced disciples of the antivivisectionist group.

The special danger in Initiative No. 2 has been carefully concealed in phraseology seemingly dealing only with the kindly care of dogs. Appeals without number have been made to dog lovers to use their influence for the passage of this law, supposedly to prevent their dog pets from being stolen and carried away to medical laboratories, there to be cruelly treated in dissection and similar experiments.

Of course, to physicians who have received their initial training in medical laboratories, and whose lives are dedicated to the relief of human suffering, the fallacy and viciousness of such statements is at once apparent. So also to veterinary surgeons, who practice their profession in efforts to prevent disease and suffering among these lower animals, the propaganda of antivivisectionists is likewise abhorrent.

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**Articles by Professor A. C. Ivy and Chester Rowell, Esq.**—CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE's policy is not to give space in its original articles department of papers previously printed, but in this number an exception is made, in order to more forcibly bring to the attention of the 6,000 members of the California Medical Association the importance of the issues involved in the Humane Dog Pound Initiative. We are, therefore, reprinting from the December, 1934, issue of our Official Journal a symposium of articles by A. C. Ivy, Ph. D., M. D., professor of physiology in Northwestern University, and by Chester Rowell, LL.D., of San Francisco, well-known editor and press columnist—and a nephew of a much-beloved and prominent California physician of twenty-five years and more ago, the late Chester Rowell of Fresno—two of but many distinguished scholars and publicists who have come out unreservedly against the so-called "Humane Dog Pound" measure.

The articles which appear on pages 256-265, therefore, are given such prominent position owing to their pertinent interest, and also their worthiness for rereading if formerly perused; and be-

cause of their applicability in a consideration of the basic issues in Initiative No. 2. Be sure to read them. You will then be better prepared to explain the viciousness of Humane Dog Pound Initiative—Proposition No. 2.

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## SOLICITATION OF PATIENTS FOR MEDICAL SERVICE PLANS CONTROLLED BY COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETIES

**Resolution Presented by the California Delegation.**—In Chicago, on Friday, September 16, Dr. Charles A. Dukes of Oakland submitted to the American Medical Association House of Delegates, in special session convened, a resolution which is reprinted in this issue on page 320.

The preamble of the resolution called attention to the need of adequate medical care for all citizens, no matter to what income groups they may belong, and suggested that such adequate medical care could be made obtainable by certain low-income groups throughout the United States if it were possible for the component county medical societies in the forty-eight constituent state medical associations of the American Medical Association to offer medical service under plans adapted to their respective communities, and approved by their respective state associations, and by which they could solicit business, and in impersonal manner, without being accused of violation of the American Medical Association "Principles of Ethics."

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**Background of the Resolution.**—The thought back of the resolution is this: Physicians, no less than their lay fellows, live in a practical work-a-day world. American business is conducted on certain principles, and, among such, legitimate solicitation for patronage has a place. Medical service of higher quality and greater scope for certain stipulated, low-income groups can be given by county medical nonprofit units with greater ease and efficiency than by commercial groups or corporations, organized for profit. County medical societies and their interlocking groups—as in the Alameda County plan, for example—are handicapped when they would go before a special industry to offer health insurance coverage on a prepayment basis, because the cry of solicitation and violation of ethics is at once raised. To overcome this, the resolution (printed on page 320) was drafted, and request was made therein that Section 4 of Chapter 3 of the Principles of Ethics of the American Medical Association (which Principles are not by-laws, but only rules of conduct adopted by resolution of the American Medical Association House of Delegates) be so *interpreted*, that impersonal solicitation for the above purpose be admissible, and be not construed as unprofessional.

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**Reaction of the Press.**—The newspaper excerpts given in this issue on page 321, indicate the reaction of the lay press. Many members of the

House of Delegates expressed to members of the California delegation their sympathy for the resolution and their belief in its value and need. However, on a technical ruling that the resolution was not admissible under the call of the special session, it was agreed that its passage should not be pushed to vote.

The careful attention of members of the California Medical Association is called thereto because in its present or modified form it will, in all probability, come up for approval or rejection at the 1939 annual session of the California Medical Association. In the meantime, the purport and scope of the resolution and the thought behind it are commended to the consideration of the component county societies and their many members.

### POSTGRADUATE ACTIVITIES OF THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

#### Scientific Medicine Is Constantly Advancing.

Scientific medicine pauses and waits for no one. Its disciples and devotees are unceasing in their earnest quests for newer knowledge. They are intent that man must be victorious over disease where and when it may show itself. The advances made in the last half-century are little short of marvelous. The amazing progress boasted of in these latter few decades is largely responsible for the great increase in life expectancy in countries of the civilized world. Many are the discoveries given to the people of all lands by the disciples of Aesculapius, made gladly, generously, and without request for monetary or other reward. In no other group or guild does this altruistic tradition exist. It is a something, a token, of which every medical man and woman should be proud.

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**Physicians Must Be Alert to Changing Knowledge.**—We must not, however, in our individual selves, be content to bask in the glory of fellows whose researches have made significant additions to medical knowledge of worth. Each of us must strive to keep in touch with recent advances in medical science, so that every patient may know that the professional services rendered for him have measured up to the highest and best standards.

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**Private Practice Is a Hard Taskmaster.**—The intimate personal relationship between patient and physician in general practice has its joys and rewards, but also its disadvantages. It is often difficult, for instance, for a physician to leave his practice for a needed vacation, or for a course of study in newer methods, especially when the sought-after work necessitates an absence from home. Yet, every physician owes it to himself and to his patients to keep abreast of the knowledge which recent methods in practice may have demonstrated should be used; and it is just here that co-operation with the Committee on Postgraduate Activities of the California Medical Association may be of real value.

**Postgraduate Supplement to This Issue.**—Our State Association is, therefore, prepared to bring to every county unit, or group of county units or district that requests it, colleagues who are willing to give clinical and other postgraduate or refresher courses. The Postgraduate Supplement to this October issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE presents the plans of the Standing Committee on Postgraduate Activities. Members are requested to scan carefully and to discuss the plans at their county society meetings. The Supplement aims to indicate the means whereby local groups, through correspondence with the State Association headquarters office in San Francisco, may arrange for postgraduate conferences.

The Committee hopes that the year 1938-1939 will record a generous response by members from all sections of California. Suggestions are requested: if, for example, the Supplement is lacking in any needed features, members are to feel free to write the Committee, and tender their recommendations. It should be kept in mind, however, that when clinic or other conferences have been arranged, the least that can be done, as an expression of appreciation for guest clinicians and other speakers who may have traveled considerable distances, perhaps at real inconvenience to themselves, is to insure a good attendance. It is important on that account that all members of local committees in charge of postgraduate conferences should meet their responsibilities and be active aids in making their conferences a success. Honorary or nonactive members are not needed on a local postgraduate committee.

As before stated, a plea is made for careful scanning of the Supplement and, after arrangements have been made for a Postgraduate Conference, for active and whole-hearted coöperation in carrying it through to successful conclusion.

### NOVEMBER STATE ELECTION: ITS PUBLIC HEALTH IMPORTANCE

**November State Election of Great Importance.**—The significance of the state election to be held Tuesday, November 8, has been stressed in previous issues of this magazine.\* It is not only important that every physician should vote, but that he should utilize every occasion and legitimate means to acquaint his friends and patients with his views and preferences, especially in so far as public health matters are concerned.

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**Proposed Humane Dog Pound Initiative (No. 2) Must Be Combated.**—Efforts should be unceasingly made to combat the vicious proposed Humane Dog Pound Law, a misnomer for an endeavor that would practically do away with humane animal experimentation designed to bring to light knowledge whereby disease may be prevented or overcome. This subject is referred to elsewhere in this number of the Official Journal.†

\* See CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, September, 1938, on page 180.

† See pages 254; 256-265; 324; and 343-344.